

Today, all peer counselors must be at least 55 years old and are required to receive 60 hours of training to provide one-on-one and group counseling to older adults that covers social and family relationships, self awareness, listening skills, understanding depression, substance abuse and other challenges of aging.

Initially the Senior Peer Counseling served English speakers, but in 1989 it was expanded to Spanish speakers with the La Esperanza Vive component which Teresa Hurtado coordinated for over twenty years.

In 2008, the county put Peninsula Family Service in charge of Senior Peer Counseling which expanded the services to additional underserved seniors in the Chinese, Filipino and LGBT communities. Now a total of 80 peer counselors support over 300 seniors under the leadership of Susan Houston and Howard Lader and their dedicated staff.

Peer counseling deeply touches the lives of the people involved. One senior who was dependent on his electric wheel chair rarely left his home and became increasingly isolated. His social worker requested a senior peer counselor hoping it would help his social life and get him involved in a senior center close to his home. After six visits the senior asked the counselor to assist him in arranging transportation with Redi-Wheels and to join him at the senior center for the first couple of visits. The senior now happily goes to the center twice a week.

Patti Garber began volunteering as a counselor a few years ago. As a cancer patient herself, she says the work gives her a sense of purpose. "I get more back than I put in," she says. "I like solving problems and providing a web of connections." And that she does whether she helps a senior find food, apply for Social Security online, find a pet or get a wheel chair.

Arleen Henriksen who passed away last year at age 92, credited her long life in part to her volunteer counseling. Arleen, whom I had the privilege of knowing when she volunteered in my legislative offices, dedicated over 20 years and much of her energy to the program. In 2009, she told the San Mateo Daily Journal, "It's more rewarding for the counselor than the people you help." She added, "People get scared thinking that, to do this, they have to be psychologists. That's not the case; you don't have to be anything more than a caring person."

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor the caring people at Senior Peer Counseling who for 25 years have provided a remarkable service that has brightened the lives of thousands of seniors in San Mateo county. May it thrive for the next 25 years and serve as a model for other communities.

RED TAPE REDUCTION AND SMALL BUSINESS JOB CREATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 4078) to provide that no agency may take any significant regulatory action until the unemployment rate is equal to or less than 6.0 percent:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, this legislation is an amalgam of seven dangerously misguided bills designed to shut down a breathtaking number of safeguards and protections citizens rely on—from the quality of health care seniors receive to the safety of infant formula babies drink to the benefits our veterans have earned. As former Republican Congressman Sherry Boehlert has warned: "It's difficult to exaggerate the sweep and destructiveness of . . . (this) . . . bill."

The core of H.R. 4078 proposes to freeze most regulatory action until the nation's unemployment rate hits 6 percent—as if the quality of seniors' health care, the safety of infant formula or the availability of veterans' benefits should depend on where the nation's unemployment rate is. Another provision of H.R. 4078 would block so called "midnight rules" issued in the final days of an outgoing administration—without any apparent recognition that the offshore drilling bill the majority brought to the floor of the House just yesterday was itself largely proposed as a "midnight" regulation in the final days of the Bush Administration. Still other provisions in H.R. 4078 would tie up the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission with additional paperwork, thereby diverting already scarce resources from other critical functions, like ensuring transparency and accountability in our financial markets.

Mr. Chair, I am not opposed to regulatory reform. Where a regulation is truly wasteful, unnecessary or duplicative, we should fix it or get rid of it. But, like the comedy of errors surrounding the numerous typos leading up to consideration of this bill, H.R. 4078 is a poorly conceived, hastily thrown together mess. The American people deserve better.

IN HONOR OF THE CENTRAL ELECTRIC COMPANY OF WATSONVILLE, CALIFORNIA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Central Electric Company of Watsonville, California, on the occasion of its centennial anniversary. For 100 years, the Central Electric Company pioneered and improved safe electrical installations for residential, commercial, and agriculture customers around our beautiful Monterey Bay region.

In 1912, starting with just a bicycle, \$100.00 in cash, and a 5-foot ladder, John Stanovich and Edith DuFour Stanovich began selling fixtures and appliances, and installing electrical wiring. At that time the demand for electrical work was very limited, but with the growing acceptance of the Edison light, plus John and Edith's hard work, the business grew. The next generation joined the company in 1926 with the addition of Edith's son, Alfred DuFour. The Central Electric Company survived the great depression and the shortages of World War II by supplementing their contracting business selling products such as irons, washing

machines, and toasters, also china and crystal.

With the end of the war, the Central Electric Company focused on growing communities and industries in need of electricity. The next two decades would see the continuation of that post-war growth and the introduction of the company's third generation with Steve DuFour, who joined the company in 1958 after serving as a lieutenant in the United States Navy.

The seventies, eighties, and nineties saw continued growth and changes to the electrical industry, many of which were driven by the digital boom. Growth and change also came when Steve and his wife Joan were joined by Tony Kulich, Patty (DuFour) Kulich, Mark Jurach, and Sharon (DuFour) Jurach in the daily operations at Central Electric. In 1989, the company survived the Loma Prieta earthquake and rallied to aid the surrounding communities in their recovery. In 1999, Tony and Patty Kulich and Mark and Sharon Jurach, the son-in-laws and great granddaughters of John and Edith, purchased the Central Electric Company from Steve and Joan, passing the torch to the fourth generation.

The turn of this century saw the Central Electric Company's enjoyment of unprecedented growth, including the completion of a \$3.5 million contract for a local college campus. This was the largest contract in the company's 100 year history. This new century has also ushered in the fifth generation, when great, great-grandsons Matt and Mike Kulich joined Central Electric as electricians.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to hold up the Central Electric Company as an example of the American Spirit. Enduring the hardships of war, economic downturns, and natural disasters, they have shown that people are more important than profit. They have shown us that when communities and families work together in difficult times, we can continue to face the challenges that have made this Nation great. May Central Electric's continued success inspire many more generations to enter the business arena, and in doing so, secure our Nation's posterity and its bright future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to state for the record that my vote against the Holt amendment, Roll No. 504, to H.R. was made in error. I support this amendment, which would strike a provision that requires the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a single multi-sale environmental impact statement for all of the new areas opened for drilling by the underlying bill.

HONORING THUNDER BAY COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICE

HON. DAN BENISHEK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2012

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of the First District of Michigan, I